Disney fairies

Tink's True Talent

Book Nine

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Illustrated by the Disney Storybook Artists
Designed by Deborah Boone

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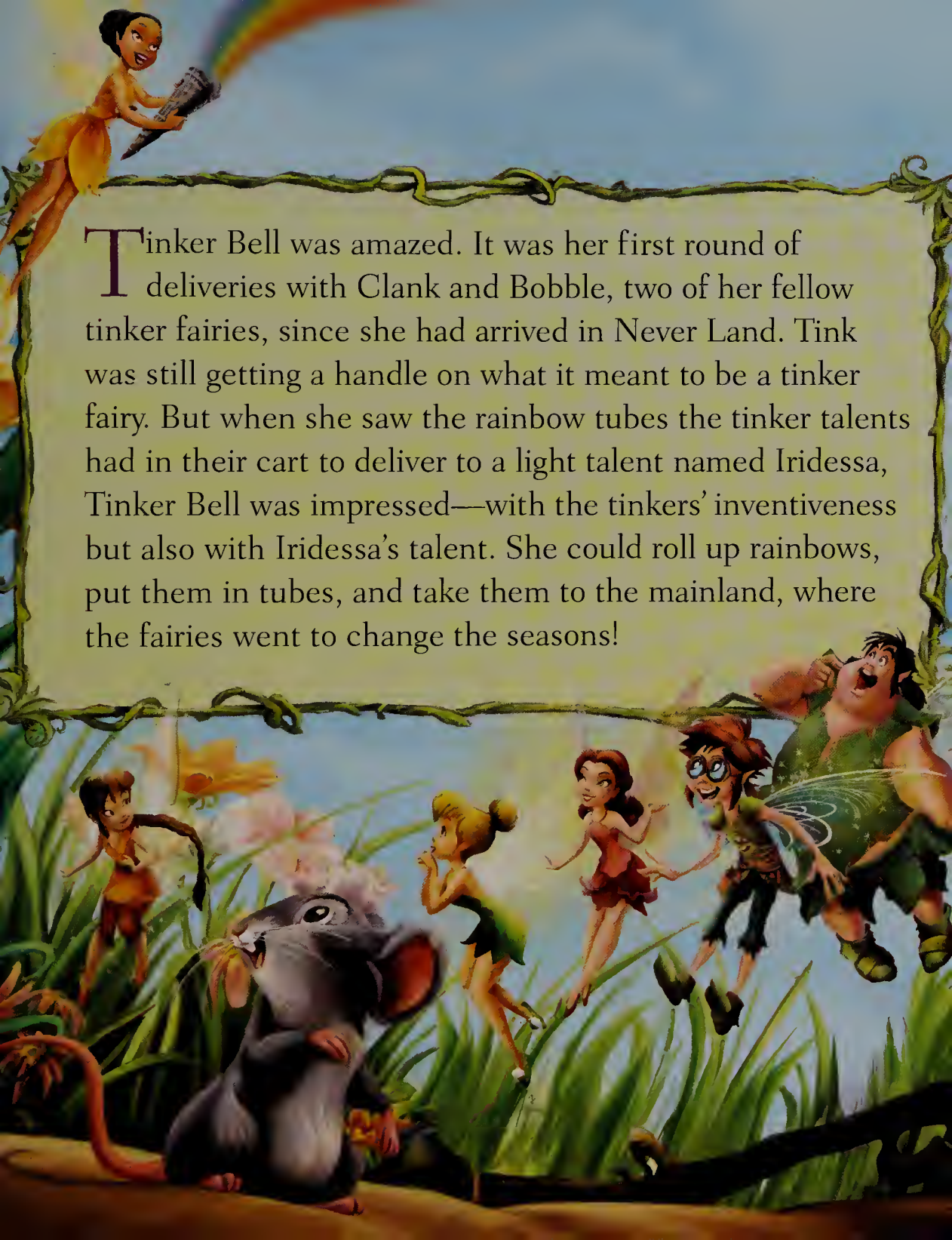


Tinker Bell was amazed. It was her first round of deliveries with Clank and Bobble, two of her fellow tinker fairies, since she had arrived in Never Land. Tink was still getting a handle on what it meant to be a tinker fairy. But when she saw the rainbow tubes the tinker talents had in their cart to deliver to a light talent named Iridessa, Tinker Bell was impressed—with the tinkers' inventiveness but also with Iridessa's talent. She could roll up rainbows, put them in tubes, and take them to the mainland, where the fairies went to change the seasons!

Tink learned that many of the fairies would soon be going to the mainland to usher in spring: flower fairies, such as Rosetta, brought flowers they had hand-painted; animal fairies gently woke hibernating animals; and water fairies sprinkled dewdrops on blades of grass. Tinker Bell was eager to use her talent to help out, too.

Then Vidia, a fast-flying fairy, poked fun at her tinker talent. "*I* make forces of nature. *You* make pots and kettles," Vidia said scornfully. "It's not like spring depends on you."

Tinker Bell wanted to prove Vidia wrong. She was sure she could show just how important tinkers were!

As Tink flew away, something shiny on the beach below caught her eye. She flew down to investigate and found a bunch of unusual objects buried in the sand. *What were they?* Tink wondered as she gathered them up. Maybe Clank and Bobble would know!

"Lost Things," explained Clank. "They wash up from time to time. Not much good for anything though."

Tinker Bell wasn't so sure. But she put the Lost Things aside and turned to the tinkers' task for the day: helping out with last-minute springtime preparations. Tink got to work making new contraptions and tools that the tinkers could use when they went to the mainland.

But when Tink went to show them to Queen Clarion, the fairy leader had some sad news. "Tinker fairies don't go to the mainland," she said to Tinker Bell. "Only the nature talents do."

Tinker Bell felt so disappointed—and so left out. Why *didn't* tinker fairies get to go to the mainland?

Fairy Mary, who kept things running smoothly in Tinkers' Nook, didn't have much patience for Tink's doldrums. "The day you can magically make the flowers grow, or capture the rays of the sun, or teach a baby bird to fly, then you can go."

That gave Tink an idea! Maybe she could *learn* to do some of those things!

The next day, Tinker Bell explained her idea to Rosetta, Fawn, Silvermist, and Iridessa. "If you could teach me your talents," she said, "maybe the queen would let me help bring spring to the mainland." The nature talents weren't so sure it was a good idea. "You all do things that are beautiful and magical and important," Tink went on. "There's got to be more to my life than just pots and kettles."

Tink seemed so troubled about it that her friends decided to give teaching her a try.

First up was Silvermist. Like all water fairies, Silvermist could pick up individual drops of water and hold them in her hand. She showed Tink how to do it with dewdrops, placing them gently onto a spiderweb. But when it was Tink's turn to try, the dewdrops burst and dribbled out of her hand as soon as she touched them. No matter how many times Tink tried, she just couldn't get it.

Silvermist told Tinker Bell not to worry. Perhaps she wasn't meant to be a water fairy. Maybe she could be a light fairy instead!

But Tink's lesson with Iridessa didn't go much better. Iridessa captured the sunset in a bucket, then scattered some into the air for fireflies to use for lighting their bottoms. When Tinker Bell tried, she couldn't get a grip on the light. She got so frustrated, she tossed the bucket to the ground. The light scattered everywhere, including on Tink's own bottom! The fireflies took one look at her and smiled in delight!

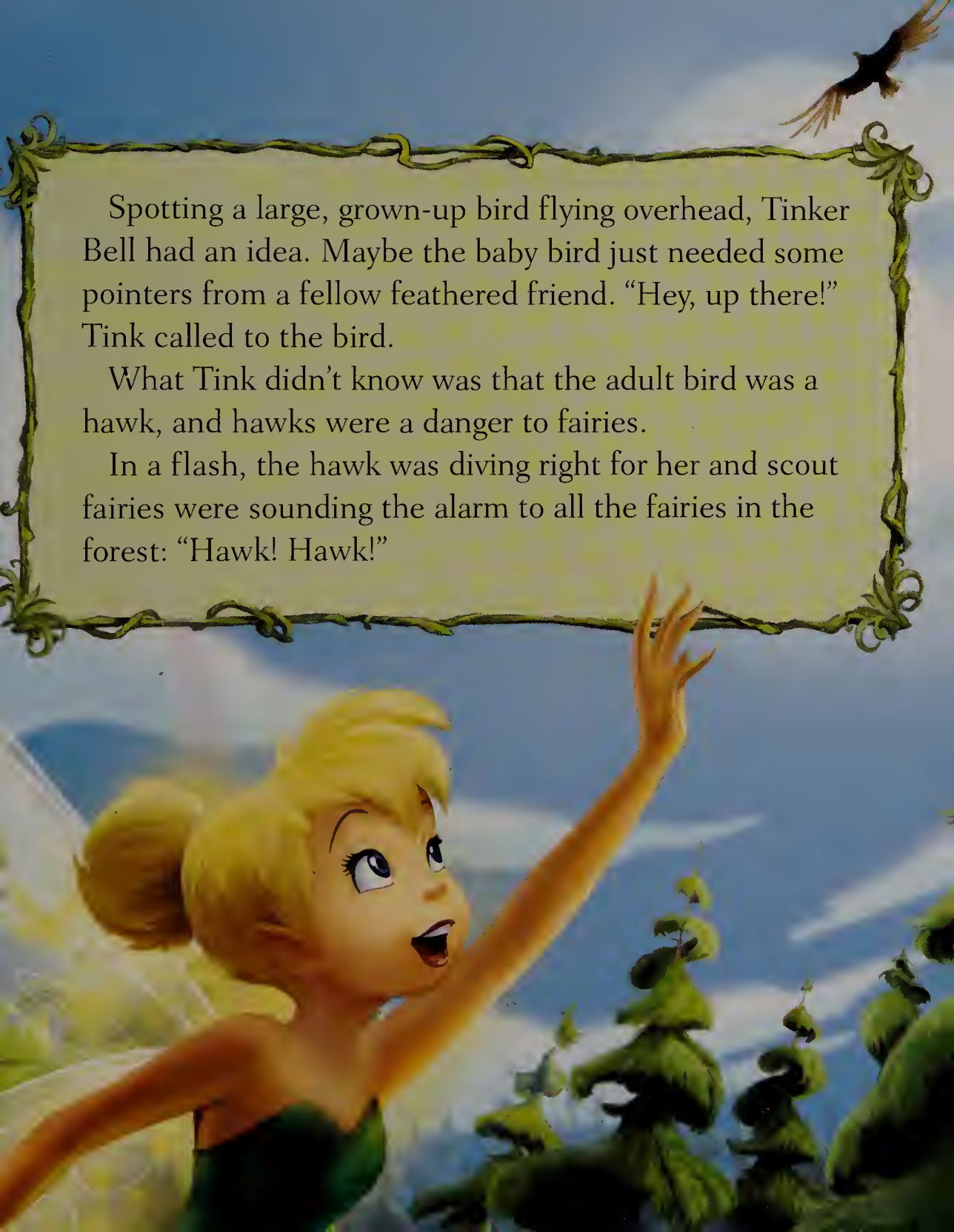
The next day, Tinker Bell met Fawn for her animal-talent lesson. "We're teaching baby birds how to fly," Fawn told Tink. For Fawn, it was a snap. One minute, she was just talking to a baby bird, explaining the basics of flight. Then, before Tink knew it, the bird was flying along behind Fawn!

Tinker Bell took one look at the terrified little bird she was helping and knew: it wasn't going to be that simple.

Spotting a large, grown-up bird flying overhead, Tinker Bell had an idea. Maybe the baby bird just needed some pointers from a fellow feathered friend. "Hey, up there!" Tink called to the bird.

What Tink didn't know was that the adult bird was a hawk, and hawks were a danger to fairies.

In a flash, the hawk was diving right for her and scout fairies were sounding the alarm to all the fairies in the forest: "Hawk! Hawk!"



Tink dove for cover, zipping through a knothole in a tree. Unfortunately, Vidia was headed for the same knothole. "This is *my* hiding spot!" she screamed, tugging on Tink's wings. The hawk halted their dispute, just missing the fairies as it crashed into the tree trunk. Vidia dove into a hole in the tree and down a chute, with Tink close behind.

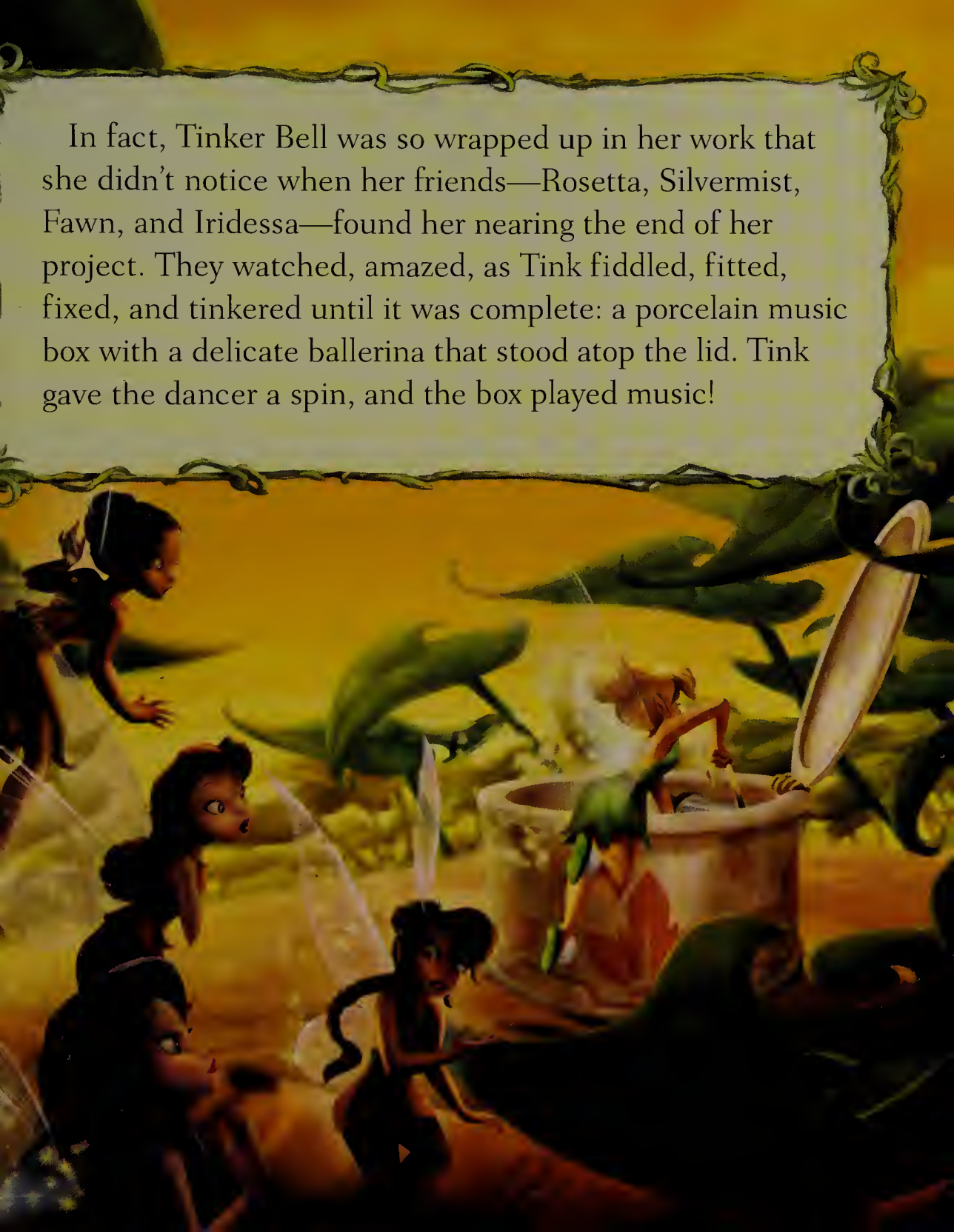
At the bottom of the chute, Vidia halted, spotting the hawk on a high branch. But then Tink came barreling down behind Vidia, knocking her out of another hole onto the branch. The hawk was poised to attack, until it was suddenly pelted from all sides with berries, stones, and twigs. Now the *fairies* were on the attack! When it was all over, the hawk had flown away, and Tink and Vidia were safe. But Vidia was covered in berry juice.

"Let me help you," Tink said to her, feeling bad because she had caused so much trouble. But Vidia just snapped at Tink and wouldn't accept her help.

Tink felt terrible as she sat on the beach a little while later thinking about what had happened. It seemed that nothing she had tried since arriving in Never Land had worked out right—not the contraptions she'd made out of Lost Things, not learning to be a nature talent, nothing.

Tink tossed a pebble in frustration and—*clunk!* She followed the sound and found a porcelain box filled with springs and gears. And there were more Lost Things in the sand nearby! For the moment, Tinker Bell forgot all about everything else and lost herself in the challenge of fitting all the parts together.

In fact, Tinker Bell was so wrapped up in her work that she didn't notice when her friends—Rosetta, Silvermist, Fawn, and Iridessa—found her nearing the end of her project. They watched, amazed, as Tink fiddled, fitted, fixed, and tinkered until it was complete: a porcelain music box with a delicate ballerina that stood atop the lid. Tink gave the dancer a spin, and the box played music!



The nature fairies came out of their hiding place to shower Tinker Bell with praise. It was the first time they—or anyone—had seen her unique tinkering talent in action.

"Isn't it what you really love?" Iridessa asked her.

Tink couldn't help but be pleased that her friends appreciated her talent. And they were right: she *did* love tinkering, after all. But she also loved the idea of bringing spring to the mainland.

If only there *was* a way for a tinker talent to do both.

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